

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An audience rating system for digital television and radio, comprising the steps of:

extracting at least one identification code for at least one digital stream of a first channel, from a control stream of a multiplexed digital transmission, when reception of the first channel by a receiver begins;

recording at least one identification code extracted and the time reception of the first channel begins;

extracting at least one identification code for at least one digital stream of any subsequent channel, from the control stream of the multiplexed digital transmission, when reception of the subsequent channel by the receiver begins;

recording at least one identification code extracted and the time reception of the subsequent channel begins; and

recording the time that reception by the receiver is ended.

2. An audience rating system for digital television and radio according to claim 1, wherein the multiplexed digital transmission is received separately by the receiver and by a meter;

when the receiver is turned on, and when the channel that the receiver is tuned to is changed, the meter compares digital streams of the channel that the receiver is tuned to, to digital streams of each of the channels in the multiplexed digital transmission, until it finds a match and extracts at least one identification code for at least one digital stream of the channel from the control stream, and records the identification code along with the time; and

when reception by the receiver is ended, the meter records the time.

3. An audience rating system for digital television and radio according to claim 2, wherein a plurality of multiplexed digital transmissions can be received at different frequencies;

when the receiver is turned on, the meter records a first frequency received, and the time reception of the first frequency begins; and

when the frequency received is changed, the meter records any subsequent frequency received, and the time reception of the subsequent frequency begins.

4. An audience rating system for digital television and radio according to claim 2, wherein the multiplexed digital transmission is transmitted by electromagnetic radiation.

5. An audience rating system for digital television and radio according to claim 2, wherein the multiplexed digital transmission is transmitted by electricity.

6. An audience rating system for digital television and radio according to claim 2, wherein data recorded by the meter are stored in a memory unit of the meter.

7. An audience rating system for digital television and radio according to claim 2, wherein data recorded by the meter are transmitted to a computer.

8. An audience rating system for digital television and radio according to claim 2, wherein at least one digital stream is an audio transmission.

9. An audience rating system for digital television and radio according to claim 2, wherein at least one digital stream is a video transmission.

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~~10~~. An audience rating system for digital television and radio according to claim 1, wherein

when the receiver is turned on, and when the channel that the receiver is tuned to is changed, an elementary stream is extracted from the multiplexed digital transmission, the elementary stream is passed to a meter, the meter extracts at least one identification code from the elementary stream, and the meter records the identification code along with the time; and

when reception by the receiver is ended, the meter records the time.

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~~11~~. An audience rating system for digital television and radio according to claim ⁸~~10~~, wherein the control stream is accessed by the meter through an auxiliary connector in a digital decoder.

¹⁰
~~12~~. An audience rating system for digital television and radio according to claim ⁸~~10~~, wherein the control stream is accessed by the meter through an access control card connector.

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~~11~~
~~13.~~ An audience rating system for digital television and radio according to claim ~~10~~⁸, wherein a plurality of multiplexed digital transmissions can be received at different frequencies;

when the receiver is turned on, the meter records a first frequency received, and the time reception of the first frequency begins; and

when the frequency received is changed, the meter records any subsequent frequency received, and the time reception of the subsequent frequency begins.

~~12~~
~~14.~~ An audience rating system for digital television and radio according to claim ~~10~~⁸, wherein the multiplexed digital transmission is transmitted by electromagnetic radiation.

~~13~~
~~15.~~ An audience rating system for digital television and radio according to claim ~~10~~⁸, wherein the multiplexed digital transmission is transmitted by electricity.

~~14~~
~~16.~~ An audience rating system for digital television and radio according to claim ~~10~~⁸, wherein data recorded by the meter are stored in a memory unit of the meter.

¹⁵
~~17~~. An audience rating system for digital television and radio according to claim ⁸~~10~~, wherein data recorded by the meter are transmitted to a computer.

~~18. An audience rating system for digital television and radio according to claim 10, wherein at least one digital stream is an audio transmission.~~

~~19. An audience rating system for digital television and radio according to claim 10, wherein at least one digital stream is a video transmission.~~

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20.

A system for recording reception of pay programs on digital television and radio, comprising the steps of:

extracting at least one identification code for at least one digital stream of a first channel, from a control stream of a multiplexed digital transmission, when reception of the first channel by a receiver begins;

recording at least one identification code extracted and the time reception of the first channel begins;

extracting at least one identification code for at least one digital stream of any subsequent channel, from the control stream of the multiplexed digital transmission, when reception of the subsequent channel by the receiver begins;

recording at least one identification code extracted and the time reception of the subsequent channel begins; and

recording the time that reception by the receiver is ended.

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